

Stocking of Offsite Waters for Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation

Creston National Fish Hatchery

Annual Report
2002 - 2003



This Document should be cited as follows:

US Fish and Wildlife Service, "Stocking of Offsite Waters for Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation; Creston National Fish Hatchery", 2002-2003 Annual Report, Project No. 199101904, 5 electronic pages, (BPA Report DOE/BP-00004699-2)

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

This report was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, as part of BPA's program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The views in this report are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of BPA.

**Stocking of Offsite Waters
For Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation
Creston National Fish Hatchery**

FY 2003 Annual Report

**Project Period
December 1, 2002 - November 30, 2003**

Submitted by:

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Creston National Fish Hatchery
780 Creston Hatchery Road
Kalispell, MT 59901**

Prepared for:

**U.S. Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Portland, Oregon**

**Project Number 199101904
Contract Number 00004699**

Mitigation Objective 1: Produce Native Westslope Cutthroat Trout at Creston NFH

Task: Acquire eggs and rear up to 100,000 Westslope Cutthroat trout annually for offsite mitigation stocking.

Accomplishments:

A total of 141,000 westslope cutthroat eggs (M012 strain) was acquired from the State of Montana Washoe Park State Fish Hatchery in May 2002 for this objective. We also received an additional 22,000 westslope cutthroat eggs, MO12 strain naturalized, from feral fish at Rogers Lake, Flathead County, Montana. The fish were reared using approved fish culture techniques as defined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Hatchery Management guidelines. Survival from the swim up fry stage to stocking was 95.6%. We achieved a 0.80 feed conversion this year on a new diet, Skretting ANutra Plus.® Post release survival and angler success is monitored annually by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT). Stocking numbers and locations vary yearly based on results of biological monitoring and adaptive management. The cutthroats were stocked in eleven distribution trips as 3.5" fingerlings during May and June of 2003, in the following waters:

<u>CSKT Managed Waters</u>	<u>Number of Fish</u>
Lower Jocko Reservoir	7,712
Upper Jocko Reservoir	3,350
Turtle Lake	3,356
Lower Twin Lake	2,198
Upper Twin Lake	2,158
Total	18,774

<u>MFWP Managed Waters</u>	<u>Number of Fish</u>
Bailey Lake	2,199
Dollar Lake	1,069
Hidden Lake	2,878
Upper Whitefish Lake	10,878
Whitefish Lake	27,603
Lion Lake	3,257
Myron Lake	904
Bootjack Lake	1,147
Total	49,935

Grand Total Westslope Cutthroat Trout 68,709

Mitigation Objective 2: Produce Rainbow Trout at Creston NFH

Task: Acquire and rear up to 100,000 Rainbow trout annually for offsite mitigation in closed basin waters.

Accomplishments:

A total of 54,000 rainbow trout eggs (Arlee strain) was acquired from the Ennis National Fish Hatchery in December 2002 for this objective. The fish were reared using approved fish culture techniques as defined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Hatchery Management guidelines. Survival from the swim up fry stage to stocking was 99.9%. We achieved a 0.79 feed conversion this year on a new diet, Skretting ANutra Plus.® Arlee rainbow trout are being used for this objective because the stocking locations are terminal basin reservoirs and habitat conditions and returns to the creel are unsuitable for native cutthroat. Post release survival and angler success is monitored annually by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT). Stocking numbers and locations vary yearly based on results of biological monitoring and adaptive management. The rainbows were stocked in four distribution trips as 3.5" fingerlings during May and June 2003, in the following waters:

<u>CSKT Managed Waters</u>	<u>Number of Fish</u>
McDonald Ponds	6,003
Pablo Reservoir	42,514
Allentown Pond	722
Total	49,239